

CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 CANCELLED

14. (Currently Amended): ~~The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the structure~~  
~~comprises:~~ A surgical device for thermally affecting soft tissue comprising:  
a structure for enveloping and receiving at least a portion of a surgical instrument,  
wherein the structure includes a substantially planar thermal transfer region to transfer thermal  
energy between the structure and the soft tissue;  
an adhesive patch including a top surface and a bottom surface; and  
a fluid conduit containing a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet defining a fluid path through the  
fluid conduit, wherein the fluid conduit is shaped forming a the thermal transfer region,  
wherein the thermal conduit is affixed to the top surface of the adhesive patch.
15. (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 14, wherein the bottom  
surface of the adhesive patch comprises an adhesive coating.

Claims 16-17 (CANCELLED)

18. (Currently Amended): ~~The device for thermally affecting tissue according to claim 16, A~~  
device for thermally affecting tissue comprising:

a fluid conduit including a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, wherein the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet define a fluid path through the fluid conduit, the fluid conduit being shaped to form a substantially planar thermal transfer region; and

a means for attaching the fluid conduit to a tissue contacting surface of a medical instrument, wherein the means for attaching the fluid conduit to the tissue contacting surface of the medical instrument is an adhesive patch.

Claims 19-32 (CANCELLED)

33. (Previously Presented) A method of thermally affecting an area of cranial tissue, the method comprising:

retracting cranial tissue using a tissue retractor having a thermal transfer region such that the thermal transfer region is in thermal communication with the retracted cranial tissue; and

creating a temperature differential between the cranial tissue and the thermal transfer region, such that thermal energy is transferred between the cranial tissue and the thermal transfer region.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of cooling an area of soft tissue using a surgical instrument coupled to a structure, the structure having a substantially planar thermal transfer region for cooling the area of soft tissue, the method comprising:

performing a medical procedure using the surgical instrument;

placing the thermal transfer region in thermal communication with the area of soft tissue;

and

creating a temperature differential between the area of soft tissue and the thermal transfer region such that thermal energy is transferred between the soft tissue area and the thermal transfer region to cool the soft tissue area.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the surgical instrument is a retractor and wherein the medical procedure includes retracting the area of soft tissue.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, wherein the structure includes:

a sheath dimensioned to envelop an end of the surgical instrument, the sheath including an open proximal end and a closed distal end defining an interior surface and exterior surface; and

a fluid conduit affixed to the sheath, the fluid conduit containing a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet defining a fluid path through the fluid conduit, wherein the fluid conduit forms the thermal transfer region.